Steps to contain Pollution in Delhi

80. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi is one of the highly polluted cities in the world; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the monitoring data obtained under the W.H.O Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) programme for the years 1980—1984, carried out in 41 cities of the world, Delhi ranked the fourth city in the world with an annual suspended particulate matter (SPM) average from 400 to 550 ug/m3, while the average suspended particulate matter value should be 500 ug/m3. This is mainly due to natural dusty conditions, but emissions from industrial activities including thermal power plants and vehicular traffic are also important contributors The levels of sulphur dioxide and oxidies of nitrogen are well with in the prescribed limits.

(b) The remedial measures Government have taken or propose to take include:

(1) Gross and mass emission standards for vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(2) The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorates, including the Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration, to enforce the gross emission standards.

(3) The petroleum industry has been asked to bring down the lead content in petrol to 0.15gm/litre by 1993.

(4) The Directorate of Transport Delhi Administration have launched an education and an awareness campaign.

(5) All the three thermal power plants in Delhi have installed electrostatic precipitators and are now complying with the prescribed emission standards.

(6) Large scale tree plantation has been taken up in and around Delhi.

(7) Checking facilities have been provided to assess pollution from vehicles, as well as facilities for rectification by tuning of the engine.

Tea Gardens owned by Tea Trading Corporation of India

81. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of tea gardens owned by Tea Trading Corporation of India and the manner in which these gardens were acquired;

(b) whether there has been any improvement in productivity either per hectare or per worker after the aquisition of these tea gardens;

(c) what has been the profit or loss per year in respect of each such garden, separately; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to improve the profitability of this organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.